



*Libary*

AMPTHILL URBAN DISTRICT

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR

for the



YEAR 1955

H.S. BURY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,  
D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health

J.P. MEARS, M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.,  
Sanitary Inspector



TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE AMPHILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the annual report upon the health, vital statistics and sanitary conditions of the Ampthill Urban District for the year 1955.

The vital statistics for the District during 1955 indicate a satisfactory level of health in the community.

The birth rate continues to be high and the infant mortality low (one death under the age of one year,) and only seven deaths occurred below the age of 65 years.

Throughout the year the water supply of the District was adequate in quantity and quality and further small extensions were made to the mains. Practically all the premises in the District are on main drainage. This is causing some overloading of the Sewage Works which is in need of considerable extension and alteration to take the ever increasing load.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the members of the Council and Council staff for their help and co-operation.

I am,  
Your obedient Servant,

H.S. BURY.

Medical Officer of Health.

July 1956.

AMPTHILL URBAN DISTRICT  
 A N N U A L R E P O R T  
 of the  
 MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
 For 1955

1. OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health - H.S.BURY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Surveyor, Sanitary Inspector and Housing Manager -

J.P. MEARS, M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.

Water Engineer - R.W. COLLISON.

2. GENERAL STATISTICS RELATING TO THE DISTRICT.

Area	acres 1,904
Population -	
Census for 1951	2,873
Registrar General's estimate of home population mid year 1955	3,060
Number of inhabited houses	1,073
Rateable Value	£18,537
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£71. 13. 1d.

3. SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Amphill is in the Southern Half of the County and is approximately midway between Bedford and Luton. The town is placed on high ground, but pleasantly screened by well wooded countryside on two elevations; the district is situated in a part of the County noted for its fine woodlands and scenery, and Amphill itself is well known for its buildings of architectural interest.

Amphill station is on the main line from St. Pancras and the district is well served by the United Counties Omnibus Service.

The district is mainly residential, with a few light industries including a laundry, agricultural engineering, fodder mill, and a firm of refrigeration engineers.

The Council's housing programme is proceeding most satisfactorily, particularly the development of Saunders Piece Estate, which will ultimately provide accommodation for approximately one hundred families.

Private development continues, particularly on the Amphill House Estate, but it is hoped that a further estate of 70 houses in Oliver Street will commence early next year. The majority of other individual building plots have now been developed, or will be within the next year or so.

Many of the inhabitants travel daily to Luton and Bedford for their employment, particularly in the factories there, but others are employed at Messrs. J.R. Ferguson's factory and the brickworks which are quite nearby. The remainder are engaged in farming, market gardening and other employment consistent with a small town of this size.

Amphill Park provides facilities for cricket, football, hockey and fishing, and a children's recreation ground where equipment is continually being added. Other sporting and social activities are provided by the Bowls Club, Rugby and Badminton Clubs, Choral and Dramatic Societies and the Amphill Town Band, and mainly for the younger people, Scouts and Youth Organisations. It is hoped that it will be possible to provide public tennis courts in the Amphill Park in the very near future.

## 4. VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	19	24	43
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total	19	24	43
Crude Birth Rate	14.1 per 1,000 home population		
Comparable Birth Rate	14.9	"	"
(The comparability factor for the District being 1.06)			
As compared with:-			
Average of last 5 years	16.1 per 1,000 home population		
Rate for Bedfordshire	15.4	"	"
Rate for England and Wales	15.0	"	"

Still Births.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	—	—	—
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—
Still Birth Rate 0.0 per 1,000 live and still births			
As compared with:-			
Average of last 5 years	24.8 per 1,000 live and still births		
Rate for Bedfordshire	19.7	"	"
Rate for England and Wales	23.1	"	"

Deaths.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths in the District	9	14	23
Transferred into District	10	6	16
Transferred from District	—	1	1
Total	19	19	38
Crude Death Rate	12.4 per 1,000 home population		
Comparable Death Rate	9.3	"	"
(The comparability factor for the District being 0.75)			
As compared with:-			
Average of last 5 years	12.4 per 1,000 home population		
Rate for Bedfordshire	10.6	"	"
Rate for England and Wales	11.7	"	"

Deaths of Infants Under One Year of Age.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	—	1	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total	—	1	1
Infant Mortality Rate 23.3 per 1,000 related live births			
As compared with:-			
Average of last 5 years	16.1 per 1,000 related live births		
Rate for Bedfordshire	18.0	"	"
Rate for England and Wales	24.9	"	"

Deaths Connected with Childbirth.

Maternal Mortality NIL per 1,000 live births

As compared with:-			
Average of last 5 years	0.00 per 1,000 live births		
Rate for Bedfordshire	0.79	"	"
Rate for England and Wales	0.64	"	"



## PRINCIPLE CAUSES OF DEATH

CAUSES	Under 15 years		15 - 65 years		Over 65 years		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory					1		1	-
2. Tuberculosis, other							-	-
3. Syphilitic disease							-	-
4. Diphtheria							-	-
5. Whooping Cough							-	-
6. Meningococcal infections							-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis							-	-
8. Measles							-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases							-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach			1				1	-
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus							-	-
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast							-	-
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus							-	-
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms			1		1	2	2	2
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia		1					-	1
16. Diabetes							-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system					2	5	2	5
18. Coronary disease, angina					2	-	2	-
19. Hypertension with heart disease							-	-
20. Other heart disease					2	4	2	4
21. Other circulatory disease					2	1	2	1
22. Influenza							-	-
23. Pneumonia	1					1	1	1
24. Bronchitis					1	1	1	1
25. Other diseases of respiratory system					1		1	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum							-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea							-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis							-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate			1				1	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion							-	-
31. Congenital malformations							-	-
32. Other defined and ill defined diseases					2	3	2	3
33. Motor vehicle accidents							-	-
34. All other accidents		1	1				1	1
35. Suicide							-	-
36. Homicide and operations of war							-	-
All Causes	1	2	4	-	14	17	19	19

## CAUSE OF DEATH IN INFANTS.

Cause	Age	Total
Accident of birth	2 hours	1

## 5. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES IN THE AREA

Provided by the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board.

General Hospitals.

Bedford General Hospital, South Wing, Kempston Road, Bedford.  
 Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.  
 The Luton and Dunstable Hospital, Luton.  
 St. Mary's Hospital, Luton.

Infectious Disease Hospitals.

Spittlesea Isolation Hospital, Spittlesea, Near Luton.

Chest Clinics (For Pulmonary Tuberculosis).

Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.  
 St. Mary's Hospital, Luton.

Venereal Disease Clinics.

Bedford General Hospital, South Wing,  
 Males and Females, Wednesday 5 - 7 p.m., Friday 3 - 5 p.m.  
 Luton and Dunstable Hospital,  
 Males and Females, Monday to Friday 8.30 a.m. to 8.30 p.m.  
 Saturday 8.30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service.

Bacteriological Laboratory.

Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.  
 Public Health Laboratory, Town Hall, Luton.

Provided by the Bedfordshire County Council.

(a) Ambulance Service.

The Service provided by the Bedfordshire County Council has satisfactorily met the demands that are occurring. It covers the full twenty-four hours, and is free of charge.

In addition to moving emergency cases, ambulance and sitting-case car transport is available for carrying patients unable to travel by other means to and from Hospital and Clinics at which attendance is necessary for the purpose of receiving medical treatment.

Except in the case of an emergency, the request for an ambulance must be made by a Medical Practitioner or other Authorised Person. This should be to the nearest depot.

The Service also covers the removal to isolation hospitals of patients suffering from infectious disease.

Depots are situated as follows:-

AMPTHILL, 14 Dunstable Street	Telephone: Ampthill 3333
BEDFORD, Bedford Road, Kempston	" Bedford 5335
BIGGLESWADE, Crab Lane,	" Biggleswade 2295
DUNSTABLE, High Street North	" Dunstable 761
LUTON, 42, Church Street	" Luton 4600
LINSLADE, Bucks. County Council.	" Leighton
10, New Road, Linslade	" Buzzard 3332
RUSHDEN, Rushden and District Motor Ambulance	"
Association, Mr. C.C. Woods, 3, Purvis Road"	Rushden 403

(b) Domiciliary Nursing and Midwifery Service.

Administered by the Northern Divisional Health Committee.

The Nurse employed is:-

Nurse Evans, S.R.N., S.C.M., "Conway", Lymo Road, Ampthill.  
Telephone: Ampthill 2210.

(c) Health Visiting Service.

Miss E.V. Maborly, 11a, Pamberley Avenue, Bedford.

(d) Home Help Service.

Organiser:-

Mrs. V.M. Podley, 3, St. Peter's Street, Bedford.

(e) Infant Welfare Centres.

1, Dunstable Street, Ampthill. Fridays 2 p.m.

(f) Ante-Natal Clinics.

1, Dunstable Street, Ampthill. Alternate Fridays 10 a.m.

## LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

Adoptive Acts.

Public Health Act, 1890. Parts i, ii, iii.

Public Health Act, 1925. Part i.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933. Part i.

Private Street Works Act, 1892.

Byelaws and Regulations.

Building Byelaws.

New Streets.

Nuisances Contrary to Public Decency.

Telegraph etc. Wires.

Water Regulations and Charges.

## 6. SCHOOLS.

With the opening of the new Secondary Modern School at Ampthill the schools were re-organised and one school closed, only one Primary School now remains in the district.

## 7. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. Water Supply.

The Ampthill Urban District Council's Waterworks situated at Clophill, has three boreholes sunk into the greensand which supply the whole of the Urban District, together with bulk supplies to the Ampthill Rural District Council.

The water is treated for hardness with Hydrated Buxton Lime, flows through sedimentation tanks, is treated with Calgon and chlorine, then filtered before passing into the pumping and distribution mains.

Daily tests are carried out for hardness and residual chlorine, and at monthly intervals bacteriological examinations are made of samples taken from various points in the area of supply. In addition, periodical chemical analyses are made of the raw and treated water, and it is satisfactory to note that both the bacteriological and the chemical examinations have revealed a high standard of purity.



The water as passed into supply is slightly hard, averaging 14.2 parts per 100,000. It has no plumbo-solvent action.

Number of houses supplied from public mains in Ampthill	1105
Population in Ampthill supplied from public water mains approx.	3050
(a) Direct to houses	1070 houses
(b) By means of private standpipes	35 houses

Bulk supplies of water are taken by the Ampthill Rural District for consumers in Clophill and Mauldon.

438 yards of three inch C.I. main was laid to the Wingfield Housing Estate, 416 yards to Saunders Piece Housing Site and 464 yards to Station Road.

#### TYPICAL RESULT OF CHEMICAL EXAMINATION OF SAMPLE OF TREATED WATER.

Parts per million.		
Nitrogen, Ammoniacal		0.01
" Albuminoid		0.03
" Nitrous		None
" Nitric		0.17
Oxygen absorbed in 15 minutes		0.08
" " " 4 hours		0.24
Hardness, temporary		310.0
Hardness, permanent		102.0
Iron		0.08

#### 2. Drainage and Sewerage.

The Sewage Disposal Works are sited at Abbey Lane and consist of the following:- Detritus and Sedimentation tanks, rotary percolating filters, humus tanks, storm water overflows and sludge lagoons. The treated effluent discharges into Running Waters Brook which enters the River Flitt. The Consulting Engineers have revised their proposed extension scheme to allow for increased population. This has been approved by the Council and is to be submitted to the Ministry.

#### 3. Rivers and Streams.

No actual complaints of pollution were received, but reports of samples of sewage effluent taken by the Council's Officers and the River Board were of a poor standard due to the overloading of the plant.

#### 4. Closet Accommodation.

The majority of the premises in the town have water carriage systems, but 49 houses with no sewer available are connected to cesspools or septic tank installations. Eight dwellings (isolated cottages and farm dwellings) have only pail closets.

#### 5. Public Cleansing.

During the year the contract with a private contractor ceased, and from 1st July the work has been carried out most satisfactorily using a Karrior Bantam 7 cu. yd. side loading vehicle and the Council's own employees. A full service is provided to all dwellings in the district regardless of position, and a weekly collection is made. Disposal of refuse continues at the Bedford Road tip where controlled tipping is practised.

#### 6. Salvage.

During the year 26 tons 6 cwts. of waste paper was collected and sold, which realised a sum of £190. 5. 9. The main bulk of the salvage was derived from business premises, but collections were made from households in the district by the refuse collectors.

## 7. Sanitary Inspection of Area.

The following is a summary of the Sanitary and other defects dealt with during the year:-

Premises with defective and insanitary closets	4
" " insufficient sanitary accommodation	-
" " insanitary and defective drains	5
" " insanitary and defective cesspools	3
" " defective windows, insufficient light and ventilation	4
" " defective floors	1
Dirty Premises	-
Dangerous structure	2
Accumulations of offensive matter	-
Unsound meat and other foods	27
Rooms disinfected after infectious disease	3
" " for bed bugs etc.	-
Nuisance from rats and mice	52
Other dilapidations	-
Number of statutory notices served	-
" " informal notices served	41
" " defective premises	33

## 8. Shops and Offices.

These establishments were inspected at intervals and were all found to be generally satisfactory, no formal action being necessary.

## 9. Camping Sites.

There are no camping sites within the Urban District and no persons or sites were licensed for caravans or moveable dwellings etc.

## 10. Smoke Abatement.

No complaints of smoke nuisance were received during the year.

## 11. Disinfestation.

No treatment was necessary.

## 8. HOUSING.

22 Council houses were completed during the year making the total number of post war dwellings 150, consisting of 122 traditional houses, 22 traditional type flats and 6 prefabricated bungalows. 11 private houses were completed and occupied.

The following private plans were approved under the Building Byelaws:-

87 houses and bungalows	12 alterations to domestic premises
1 Agricultural building	9 alterations to business premises
	8 garages

## Town and Country Planning.

29 applications under the Town and Country Planning Acts were received, of which 24 were approved, 1 withdrawn, 2 deferred and 2 refused.

## Rodent Control.

A trained operator has been employed to carry out the destruction of rodents, make surveys etc., and take such steps as to keep infestations down to a minimum. Regular treatments were carried out at the Refuse Tip and Sowerage Works, and domestic and business premises were attended to as and when required. Regular surveys of ditches and streams in the district generally were carried out and the necessary treatment given. Tests and treatment of the Sowerage System were carried out in accordance with Ministry instructions.

## 9. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Number of premises Handling Food and Visits made thereto.

(a) <u>Shops.</u>	<u>Premises</u>	<u>Visits Made</u>
1. Ice Cream Vondors	9	22
2. Bakers and Confectionors	4	17
3. Groccrs	3	11
4. Fishmongers	1	7
5. General Stores	7	17
6. Dolicatesson shops	-	--
7. Butchers	5	27
8. Dairios and retail milk distributors	2	10
(b) <u>Vans, Stalls and Hawkers</u>	2	7
(c) <u>Catering Establishments</u>		
1. Restaurants and cafes	4	18
2. Industrial canteens	-	--
3. School Canteens	2	3
4. Hotels	1	5
5. Outside catering contractors	2	3
6. Fish and Chip Shops	1	7
7. Others	-	--
(d) <u>Manufacturing Establishments</u>		
1. Sausage Makers	5	27
2. Meat Pic and cooked meat makers	5	27
3. Bakehouses	1	6
4. Ice cream makers	1	4
5. Confectionory Manufacturers	-	--
6. Others	-	--

Milk Supply.

Regular inspections have been carried out of the two retailers' premises which were found to be satisfactory. Two dairies situated outside the district retail designated milk within the Urban area.

Meat and Other Foods.

The following foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

897 lbs. Beef	
11 lbs. Pork	14 lbs. Fish
148 tins of food	

Butchers Shops.

The five butcher's shops and premises have been inspected and found to be most satisfactory.

Bakehouses.

Only one bakehouse now exists in the district which is maintained in a reasonable condition.

Ice Cream Registrations.

Eight premises are registered for the sale of ice cream, all of which sell a pre-packed article except for one where a "cold mix" is manufactured and sold. Samples were taken regularly and all were reported in grades 1 or 2 which is generally satisfactory.



Slaughtering Arrangements.

Three slaughterhouses are licensed for slaughtering, two of which are used regularly and one only spasmodically. Eight slaughtermen's licenses are in force but only two of those licensed persons slaughter regularly.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part during 1955.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed: (if known)	111	8	4	350	73	-
Number inspected	111	8	4	350	73	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	7	1	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	6.3%	12.5%	-	-	-	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	2	-	-	1	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	2.7%	25%	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

10. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Cases of Infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are admitted to Spittloosa Isolation Hospital.

Very few cases of infectious disease were notified during the year, no deaths occurred.



Notification by Age Groups

Disease	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	over 15	Total	Removed to Hospital
Whooping Cough		1	1		2	7			11	2
Scarlet Fever						1			1	
Measles	2	2	3	5	1	30			43	
Poliomyelitis			1				1		2	2

Tuberculosis in Age Groups

Age	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1-5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5 - 15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15 - 35	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
35 - 65	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
over 65	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..

Number on Register at End of Year

<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non Pulmonary</u>	
M.	F.	M.	F.
15	5	-	4

Death Rates per 100,000 of the Population

This District ...	...	32.7
Bedfordshire ...	...	7.7
England and Wales ...	...	13.1

## 11 MASS RADIOGRAPHY

The unit did not visit the district during the year.

## 12. IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.

Immunisation and vaccination is now the responsibility of the County Council and the state of protection of the children of the District is indicated by the tables appearing below, which have been supplied by the Divisional Medical Officer.

Immunisation State of Child Population

	Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 14	Total Under 15
Children completely protected (i.e. have received primary or booster injections since 1st. January, 1950.)	6	188	161	78	433
Children partially protected (i.e. had received primary injections prior to 1st January 1950, but have had no booster since.)			58	94	152
	6	188	219	172	585

Vaccinations Carried Out During the Year.

	Under 1	1	2 - 4	5 - 14	15 and over	Total
Primary Vaccinations	6	1	-	-	3	10
Re-Vaccination	-	-	-	-	2	2

## CLEANSING OF VERMINOUS PERSONS

Scabies.

By arrangement with the Borough of Bedford, infected persons are treated at the Borough Treatment Centre, Commercial Road, Bedford. The cost is 10/- per treatment.

Where possible, arrangements are made for the other members of the household to attend for treatment as contacts at the same time as the infected person or persons.

During the year under review, no treatments were given.

## PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

No action was required under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937.PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number Of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	4	11	-	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	11	18	-	-
3. Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority * (excluding out-workers premises)	2	5	-	-
Total	17	34	-	-

## 2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

(if defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars	Number of cases defects found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (s.1.)					
Overcrowding (s.2.)					
Unreasonable temperature (s.3.)					
Inadequate ventilation (s.4.)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (s.6.)					
Sanitary Conveniences (s.7.)					
a. Insufficient	1	1			
b. Unsuitable or defective	2	2			
c. Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Acts (not including offences relating to Outwork)	1			1	
Total	4	3	-	1	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT. OUTWORK. (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel Making etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-

\* i.e. Electrical Stations (Section 103)(1) Institutions (Section 104) and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 & 108).

